

1998—Pub. L. 105-277, §142(m)(1), designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and inserted heading.

Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 105-277, §142(m)(2), added par. (4) and struck out former par. (4) which read as follows: “agrees to submit, on demand by the corporation, to binding arbitration conducted in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association in any controversy involving—

“(A) its recognition as a national governing body, as provided for in section 220529 of this title; or

“(B) the opportunity of any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official to participate in amateur athletic competition, as provided for in the corporation’s constitution and bylaws;”.

Subsec. (a)(10). Pub. L. 105-277, §142(m)(3), added par. (10) and struck out former par. (10) which read as follows: “demonstrates that—

“(A) its board of directors or other governing board includes among its voting members—

“(i) individuals who are actively engaged in amateur athletic competition in the sport for which recognition is sought; or

“(ii) individuals who, within the prior 10 years, have represented the United States in international amateur athletic competition in the sport for which recognition is sought; and

“(B) the individuals described in subclause (A) of this clause hold at least 20 percent of the membership and voting power on the board;”.

Subsec. (a)(14). Pub. L. 105-277, §142(m)(4), inserted “or to participation in the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, or the Pan-American Games” after “amateur status”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 105-277, §142(m)(5), added subsec. (b).

§ 220523. Authority of national governing bodies

(a) AUTHORITY.—For the sport that it governs, a national governing body may—

(1) represent the United States in the appropriate international sports federation;

(2) establish national goals and encourage the attainment of those goals;

(3) serve as the coordinating body for amateur athletic activity in the United States;

(4) exercise jurisdiction over international amateur athletic activities and sanction international amateur athletic competition held in the United States and sanction the sponsorship of international amateur athletic competition held outside the United States;

(5) conduct amateur athletic competition, including national championships, and international amateur athletic competition in the United States, and establish procedures for determining eligibility standards for participation in competition, except for amateur athletic competition specified in section 220526 of this title;

(6) recommend to the corporation individuals and teams to represent the United States in the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, the Pan-American Games, and the Parapan American Games; and

(7) designate individuals and teams to represent the United States in international amateur athletic competition (other than the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, the Pan-American Games, and the Parapan American Games) and certify, in accordance with applicable international rules, the amateur eligibility of those individuals and teams.

(b) REPLACEMENT OF NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY PURSUANT TO ARBITRATION.—A national

governing body may not exercise any authority under subsection (a) of this section for a particular sport after another amateur sports organization has been declared (in accordance with binding arbitration proceedings prescribed by the organic documents of the corporation) entitled to replace that national governing body as the member of the corporation for that sport.

(Pub. L. 105-225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1473; Pub. L. 105-277, div. C, title I, §142(n), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-608; Pub. L. 116-189, §4(a)(9), Oct. 30, 2020, 134 Stat. 945.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
220523(a)	36:393.	Sept. 21, 1950, ch. 975, title II, §203, as added Nov. 8, 1978, Pub. L. 95-606, §2, 92 Stat. 3054.
220523(b)	36:393 note.	July 8, 1980, Pub. L. 96-304, title I (last sentence related to limitation on exercise of authority in par. under heading “Salaries and Expenses”), 94 Stat. 898.

In subsection (b), the words “national governing body” are omitted (the first time they appear) to eliminate unnecessary words. The reference to “subsection (a) of this section” is substituted for “section 203 of Public Law 95-606 as hereby amended” because of the restatement. The word “corporation” is substituted for “Committee” because of the definition of “corporation” in section 220501 of this title.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2020—Subsec. (a)(6), (7). Pub. L. 116-189 substituted “the Pan-American Games, and the Parapan American Games” for “and the Pan-American Games”.

1998—Subsec. (a)(6), (7). Pub. L. 105-277, which directed substitution of “Games, the Paralympic Games, and” for “Games and” in pars. (6) and (7) of this section, was executed by making the substitution in pars. (6) and (7) of subsec. (a) to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

§ 220524. General duties of national governing bodies

(a) IN GENERAL.—For the sport that it governs, a national governing body shall—

(1) develop interest and participation throughout the United States and be responsible to the persons and organizations it represents;

(2) minimize, through coordination with other organizations, conflicts in the scheduling of all practices and competitions;

(3) keep amateur athletes informed of policy matters and reasonably reflect the views of the athletes in its policy decisions;

(4) disseminate and distribute to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials in a timely manner the applicable rules and any changes to such rules of the national governing body, the corporation, the appropriate international sports federation, the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, and the Pan-American Sports Organization;

(5) allow an amateur athlete to compete in any international amateur athletic competition conducted by any organization or person, unless the national governing body establishes that its denial is based on evidence that the organization or person conducting the competition does not meet the requirements stated in section 220525 of this title;

(6) provide equitable support and encouragement for participation by women where separate programs for male and female athletes are conducted on a national basis;

(7) with respect to a sport for which a national governing body conducts separate programs for female and male athletes, ensure that female and male athletes who represent the United States in international amateur athletic events receive, from funds directly provided by the national governing body to the athlete (excluding any prize or award based on the athlete’s performance in an international amateur athletic competition), equivalent and nondiscriminatory compensation, wages, benefits, medical care, travel arrangements, and payment or reimbursement for expenses, all insofar as these are implemented in connection with such amateur athletic events, where “equivalent” means “equal” except that it shall be permissible—

(A) to consider merit, performance, seniority, or quantity of play in determining contract or other terms of participation; and

(B) to provide more beneficial terms of participation to athletes representing the United States in international events to address disparities in outside income, including in compensation made available by international sports federations and other event organizers, or the need to foster underdeveloped programs or address documented and justifiable personal need on the part of specific athletes or teams;

(8) take all reasonable steps, in collaboration with affected athletes, to advocate to international sports federations and other event organizers to equalize prizes, compensation, funding, and other support provided to athletes by such federations and organizers;

(9) encourage and support amateur athletic sports programs for individuals with disabilities and the participation of individuals with disabilities in amateur athletic activity, including, where feasible, the expansion of opportunities for meaningful participation by individuals with disabilities in programs of athletic competition for able-bodied individuals;

(10) provide and coordinate technical information on physical training, equipment design, coaching, and performance analysis;

(11) encourage and support research, development, and dissemination of information in the areas of sports medicine and sports safety;

(12) develop 1 or more policies that prohibit any individual who is an employee, contractor, or agent of the national governing body from assisting a member or former member in obtaining a new job (except for the routine transmission of administrative and personnel files) if the individual knows that such

member or former member violated the policies or procedures of the Center related to sexual misconduct or was convicted of a crime involving sexual misconduct with a minor in violation of applicable law or the policies or procedures of the Center;

(13) promote a safe environment in sports that is free from abuse of any amateur athlete, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse;

(14) take care to promote a safe environment in sports using information relating to any temporary measure or sanction issued pursuant to the authority of the Center;

(15) immediately report to law enforcement any allegation of child abuse of an amateur athlete who is a minor; and

(16) have in place policies and procedures to report immediately any allegation of child abuse of an amateur athlete, consistent with—

(A) the policies and procedures developed under subparagraph (C) of section 220541(a)(1); and

(B) the requirement described in paragraph (2)(A) of section 220542(a).

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt or otherwise abrogate the duty of care of a national governing body under State law or the common law.

(Pub. L. 105–225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1474; Pub. L. 105–277, div. C, title I, § 142(o), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681–608; Pub. L. 116–189, § 7(a)(2)(A)(iv), (c), Oct. 30, 2020, 134 Stat. 957, 959; Pub. L. 117–340, § 2(b)(1), Jan. 5, 2023, 136 Stat. 6176.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
220524	36:392(a)(1)–(3), (5)–(9).	Sept. 21, 1950, ch. 975, title II, § 202(a)(1)–(3), (5)–(9), as added Nov. 8, 1978, Pub. L. 95–606, § 2, 92 Stat. 3052.

In clause (4), the word “by” is substituted for “under its auspices or that of . . . other” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “the national governing body” are substituted for “it” for clarity.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2023—Subsec. (a)(7) to (16). Pub. L. 117–340, § 2(b)(1), added pars. (7) and (8) and redesignated former pars. (7) to (14) as (9) to (16), respectively.

2020—Pub. L. 116–189, § 7(c)(1), (3), designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, and added subsec. (b).

Pub. L. 116–189, § 7(a)(2)(A)(iv), struck out “amateur sports” before “organizations” in pars. (1) and (2) and before “organization or person, unless” in par. (5) prior to redesignation of existing section as subsec. (a).

Subsec. (a)(10) to (14). Pub. L. 116–189, § 7(c)(2), added pars. (10) to (14).

1998—Pars. (4) to (9). Pub. L. 105–277, added par. (4) and redesignated former pars. (4) to (8) as (5) to (9), respectively.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

RULE OF CONSTRUCTION

For construction of Pub. L. 117–340 as it pertains to certain rights of athletes, see section 2(d) of Pub. L.

117-340, set out as a note under section 220505 of this title.

§ 220525. Granting sanctions for amateur athletic competitions

(a) PROMPT REVIEW AND DECISION.—For the sport that it governs, a national governing body promptly shall—

(1) review a request by an amateur sports organization or person for a sanction to hold an international amateur athletic competition in the United States or to sponsor United States amateur athletes to compete in international amateur athletic competition outside the United States; and

(2) grant the sanction if—

(A) the national governing body does not decide by clear and convincing evidence that holding or sponsoring an international amateur athletic competition would be detrimental to the best interest of the sport; and

(B) the requirements of subsection (b) of this section are met.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—An amateur sports organization or person may be granted a sanction under this section only if the organization or person meets the following requirements:

(1) The organization or person must pay the national governing body any required sanctioning fee, if the fee is reasonable and non-discriminatory.

(2) For a sanction to hold an international amateur athletic competition in the United States, the organization or person must—

(A) submit to the national governing body an audited or notarized financial report of similar events, if any, conducted by the organization or person; and

(B) demonstrate that the requirements of paragraph (4) of this subsection have been met.

(3) For a sanction to sponsor United States amateur athletes to compete in international amateur athletic competition outside the United States, the organization or person must—

(A) submit a report of the most recent trip to a foreign country, if any, that the organization or person sponsored for the purpose of having United States amateur athletes compete in international amateur athletic competition; and

(B) submit a letter from the appropriate entity that will hold the international amateur athletic competition certifying that the requirements of paragraph (4) of this subsection have been met.

(4) The requirements referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection are that—

(A) appropriate measures have been taken to protect the amateur status of athletes who will take part in the competition and to protect their eligibility to compete in amateur athletic competition;

(B) appropriate provision has been made for validation of any records established during the competition;

(C) due regard has been given to any international amateur athletic requirements specifically applicable to the competition;

(D) the competition will be conducted by qualified officials;

(E) proper medical supervision will be provided for athletes who will participate in the competition;

(F) proper safety precautions have been taken to protect the personal welfare of the athletes and spectators at the competition; and

(G) the amateur sports organization or person requesting sanction from a national governing body will implement and abide by the policies and procedures to prevent the abuse, including emotional, physical, and child abuse, of amateur athletes participating in amateur athletic activities applicable to such national governing body.

(Pub. L. 105-225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1474; Pub. L. 115-126, title II, §203, Feb. 14, 2018, 132 Stat. 323.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
220525(a)(1)	36:392(a)(4).	Sept. 21, 1950, ch. 975, title II, §202(a)(4), (b), as added Nov. 8, 1978, Pub. L. 95-606, §2, 92 Stat. 3052, 3053.
220525(a)(2)(A), 220525(a)(2)(B), 220525(b)(1) (words before par. (1)), 220525(b)(1)(A), 220525(b)(2)(A), 220525(b)(2)(B), 220525(b)(3)(A), 220525(b)(3)(B), 220525(b)(4)	36:392(b) (words before cl. (1)). (no source). 36:392(b)(1) (words before subcl. (A)), (2) (words before subcl. (A)), 36:392(b)(1)(A), (2)(A), 36:392(b)(1)(C). 36:392(b)(1)(B) (words before subcl. (i)), 36:392(b)(2)(C). 36:392(b)(2)(B) (words before subcl. (i)). 36:392(b)(1)(B)(i)-(vi), (2)(B)(i)-(vi).	

In subsection (a), the words “and determine whether to grant such sanction, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section” and “As a result of its review under subsection (a)(4) of this section” are omitted as unnecessary. Clause (2)(B) is added because of the reorganization of the section.

In subsection (b), the language before paragraph (1) is substituted for 36:392(b)(1) (words before subclause (A)) and (2) (words before subclause (A)) because of the reorganization of the section. Paragraph (1) is substituted for 36:392(b)(1)(A) and (2)(A), and paragraph (4) is substituted for 36:392(b)(1)(B)(i)-(vi) and (2)(B)(i)-(vi), to avoid repeating identical language.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (b)(4)(G), Pub. L. 115-126, which directed amendment of section 220525(b)(4), without specifying the title to be amended, by adding subpar. (G), was executed to this section, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

§ 220526. Restricted amateur athletic competitions

(a) EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION.—An amateur sports organization that conducts amateur athletic competition shall have exclusive jurisdic-